Serial No. 10/582,598

Atty. Doc. No. 2003P08636WOUS

REMARKS

Claims 31, 41-44, 48 and 49 have been canceled, claims 32-40 and 45 have been amended. No claims have been added by way of this response. Thus, claims 32-40, and 45-47 are currently pending and presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 45 contains patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 45 has been rewritten in such a manner. Applicants have amended claims 32-40 to depend on allowable claim 45. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 45, is in condition for allowance as well as claims 32-40, 46 and 47 which depend thereon.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including fees for additional claims and terminal disclaimer fee, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 11/01ch 11, 2009

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